

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

November 5, 2003

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Shea.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez,
Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault (late), Forest

Absent: Alderman Wihby

Mayor Baines stated I would like to welcome Alderman-Elect Mark Roy. Congratulations and welcome.

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Shana Potvin, 143 Middle Street, Manchester stated:

I am a part of the citizen group called NEOP and that stands for No Even/Odd Parking. I am here tonight speaking on behalf of more than 100 residents that have contacted our group after hearing about us in the Union Leader and on WZID. These people are from all areas of the City and are all in dire need of a solution to the winter parking crisis. Although they agree that Manchester is a great place to live, they are dreading November 15th when their winter parking nightmare begins. Tonight you will be voting to approve a request from the Committee on Traffic/Public Safety. This request would adopt an ordinance that would provide an exception to the even/odd ban for a portion of the downtown area. This ordinance will bring immediate relief to hundreds of residents and will serve as a pilot for other areas of the City. It is a rationale solution that will improve the quality of life in our

City. Thank you for including NEOP in this process and we are confident that this will be a positive change for Manchester.

Andre Oriol, 590 Chestnut Street, Manchester stated:

Thank you for taking the time to listen to our concerns. Over the last few years the parking situation in the downtown Manchester area has escalated greatly. With the addition of the civic center people are parking in the nearby City streets since there isn't sufficient parking made available. During the winter months this has makes parking incredibly difficult for the citizens who reside in these nearby streets because the odd/even parking rule is in effect. The main reason of odd/even parking was implemented was to assist with snow removal. One night the plows would clear one side of the street and the next night the plows would clear the other side. However, as it stands now the streets are only plowed when there is a snow emergency called and in this scenario there is no parking on the City streets whatsoever. This makes many people wonder why we even have the odd/even rule. Well the other reason the odd/even exists is so emergency vehicles can pass through the streets easier on snowy nights. This is one of the reasons a pilot program is being requested instead of eliminating the odd/even rule throughout the entire City. The streets that have been chosen for this pilot are some of the most affected by the odd/even parking and they are also some of the widest. This will enable emergency vehicles to still get by when the snowbanks become too large and encroach on the street. Eliminating the odd/even rule seems to be necessary in some parts of Manchester and I believe the selected areas between Mechanic Street and Pleasant Street is a perfect location to test this pilot. This area has a need for large amounts of overnight street parking for residents, as well as street widths that could accommodate two sides of parking and have enough room for the emergency vehicle passage.

Crystal Graton, 590 Chestnut Street, Manchester stated:

I am a NEOP member also. I am not personally affected by the even/odd parking. I do, however, see a desperate need to change our policy. The Manchester community needs a more user-friendly parking alternative for winter parking especially. I honestly believe that the pilot area that we have defined in Manchester will benefit greatly from the even/odd parking policy changes. Thank you.

Kirk Callender, 819 Elm Street, Manchester stated:

I live in an apartment building on Elm Street with no parking and am forced to park on the street. It is difficult to find parking in the summer and when there are events happening at the civic center. As of November 15 it will become next to impossible to find parking at night. I came here tonight to support the no even/odd parking program. Although I don't live in the proposed area, I feel very strongly that it is a step in the right direction and will benefit Manchester and all of its citizens.

Corinne Potvin, 590 Chestnut Street, Manchester stated:

I do not live in the proposed test area so I will not benefit directly from it, at least not yet. I understand that this is a complicated issue and that a test area is necessary to work any bugs out of the snow removal process and insure that public safety is not being neglected. I am sure that some of you may be disappointed that most of the City will not be included in this winter's proposal as will many of your constituents. However, there is a great possibility that the pilot program will be a tremendous success and will potentially lead to winter parking relief for more residents in the future. To subject the entire City to this trial period without offering the Department of Public Works a larger budget, some more plows and manpower seems a rash action that could prove to be both overwhelming and irresponsible. The second item on the proposal requests funding for a system of snow emergency warning lights. After speaking with officials in other New England cities, this light system appears to be a valuable tool to City officials and residents alike. It is clear from the high number of vehicles towed off City streets last winter that word of snow emergencies is not effectively communicated to residents. I am 25 years old and quite frankly I don't listen to WZID and I don't always watch WMUR or read the Union Leader for my news or entertainment. There are plenty of residents who don't even have televisions or computers in their homes and can't get the e-mail notification. There are many residents who don't speak English as a first language and don't listen to or watch these programs. The light system would cross all of these barriers and deliver the news of a snow emergency quickly and effectively. I urge you to vote to accept this proposal and give the pilot program a chance. Thank you.

Nanette Leurant, 52 Caron Street, Manchester stated:

First I would like to thank the NEOP group for the opportunity afforded me to work with them. I own a home with a garage and it was very easy for me to just say that the whole even/odd winter parking problem doesn't affect me. Actually everything that happens or causes change in my City does affect me as it does all Manchester citizens. This movement to change the even/odd winter parking policy affects me greatly because it signifies the positive power that a group of concerned citizens and City officials can have when they work together. I am greatly bothered by the apathy throughout the City of Manchester. From what I see, the majority of Manchester citizenry has become complacent, capable only of showing disdain towards City leadership. I suppose it is much easier to sit back and blame our leaders than it is to try to help them. Our City government does a great job considering the obstacles it faces. I, for one, believe that all citizens of our City should be active in helping the local governing body find the best solutions to problems that affect all of us, not simply sitting back and demanding that a few solve the problems of many and that is why I hope you give great pause to NEOP and support its request for the trial area this winter. The people that make up this group are loyal Manchester citizens who instead of just complaining have researched, campaigned, presented information at meetings and supported our local leaders in trying to find a solution to a long-standing problem throughout Manchester. If nothing else, I hope that you will support this request because your green light for this trial

may be the spark needed for citizens in other areas of Manchester to come together and start to work with you in finding solutions to problems throughout the City. We need to work with our City officials instead of complaining about them. NEOP has done just that and again I hope you will recognize their efforts and support the no even/odd parking trial this winter.

Josh Greenberg, 22 Concord Street, Apt. 24, Manchester stated:

I am here to discuss the meter problems that we have. I would like to try to change the meters. I visited some other surrounding towns that have nickels, dimes and quarters. They also have a mini-card that you put 25 cents on and it is for 30 minutes. Most of these stores now these days won't give you quarters. There is your problem. A lot of people don't have money to get quarters.

Billy Dodd, 181 Mammoth Road, Manchester stated:

Your odd/even parking. The only information we get on that is what we read in the paper. There is something in there to the extent that you are going to do a pilot program downtown. Just make it City wide or do you need the extra revenue to make your budget for your odd/even parking? They will probably even give a ticket out on Mission Avenue, a dirt road that you won't even pave for the residents up there for odd/even parking. Make it City wide. Right here is my checkbook. I know what goes in and I know what comes out. The baseball deal down here, the baseball stadium could be a very positive thing for the City. Everything else around it, you guys aren't asking enough questions. You don't know how many times I scream at my TV when I watch you guys saying somebody ask the next question. Right now you guys have a bunch of fancy drawings that tell you you are going to get \$40 million worth of assessed valuation down there. You don't know what you got. You got a developer telling you that two and two and hope it is going to be six and you are believing him. You don't have your streets that are going in. You treated the railroad company like crap several years ago when the cement plant wanted to go down there. No wonder they don't want to deal with you. Okay? This whole thing is so fluid it is like sap in the springtime in the Maple tree. It goes up and down. You don't know what you have got down there right now and if you guys don't put the breaks on this thing until you get some answers instead of the standard paragraph in the Union Leader saying Sanborn refuses to name who the tenants are down there...until you guys know what is going on down there you need to put the brakes on this thing and if you don't change your mailing address from City Hall Plaza to PO Box 14, Concord NH because that is where the thieves are and if you guys don't get your act together here and find out what is going on, you are stealing from the residents of this City. Change your address. Ask the questions. Put the brakes on until you get those answers. Right now I assume Mr. Weber is scrambling for money because he is trying to get the Singers to come in and bank roll it with him. From what I saw down here a couple of weeks ago, Mr. Weber had all the right in the world to be mad. I thought he was going to have a heart attack. Some of you guys ought to have the gumption to get up and ask for Randy Sherman's removal. Period. You don't hide stuff like that. It made you guys look bad and it made Mr. Weber

ticked off pretty good. As far as the outside development of that thing, ask the questions. Developers are running this City. We don't need an elevator at Gill Stadium. All you need is ramps up there to meet the ADA qualifications. They are only going to play ball there for a year and they are going to be gone and then we are going to have to maintain the elevator forever. You can do that project up there without an elevator. Ask the questions and do your homework.

Mayor Baines advised that if there is no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Pinard duly seconded by Alderman Thibault it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk